

# NCNA HEADS AND TALES

The Official Publication of the  
Northern California  
Numismatic Association

**MOTTO - TO PROMOTE AND TO SERVE  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NUMISMATICS**

"Forty-Eighth Issue"

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Editor

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All Correspondence and Business, Except For NCNA Heads And Tales, Mail  
To The Association's Millbrae Post Office Box.

## 1993 NCNA OFFICERS

Fred G. van den Haak-----	President
Ron Miller-----	First Vice-President
Gordon R. Donnell-----	Second Vice-President
Michael S. Turrini-----	Treasurer
David W. Lange-----	Secretary

DEADLINE FOR FORTY-NINTH ISSUE-----August 1

A letter from the President.

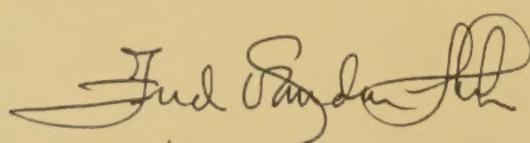
This is my very first "President's Letter", and in many ways, I find the writing of this letter to be an extremely difficult task at this time. The reason for this is the recent murder of Ron Miller, the Past-President of the N.C.N.A. and long time member of the Board of Directors of our organization. Ron was the owner of the Fremont Coin Gallery and he was murdered during a robbery at his shop on March 16, 1993. Ron was 48 and he is survived by his wife Diana and three young children, Adam, Aaron and Sarah. Two 17 year old juveniles and an adult have recently been arrested for this crime.

Ron was a founding member of the Fremont Coin Club and an active member and ardent supporter of many local coin clubs and organizations. He served the local numismatic community as an officer in many coin clubs and was often a guest speaker during club meetings, speaking on a wide variety of numismatic subjects. He "set-up" at many local and national coin shows and was an extremely knowledgeable dealer and well respected by fellow coin dealers.

Having known Ron for well over 20 years, I can truly say that he was not "just another coin dealer", rather, he was true numismatist in every sense of my understanding of the word. Ron really loved numismatics and did everything possible to promote the hobby, especially with young people, who are the future of our hobby. He was always eager to share his expertise and knowledge with all with whom he came in contact. He took very valuable time which could have been spent with his wife and children, and spent it instead with his numismatic family. This is the very essence of what Ron was about and we, his numismatic family, truly share in the pain of his loss.

The N.C.N.A. was also a benefactor of an association with Ron Miller. Ron served our organization as the bourse chairman for many of our annual coin shows, a club representative, both Vice-President and President, and was still serving our organization as a Vice-President at the time of his most untimely and unjust death. All of these activities required tremendous effort and great amounts of valuable personal time over the many years that Ron served our Association. He was extremely hard working, willing to accept challenges, reliable, honest and most of all, a fair man. If there was discord, Ron would work hard to resolve matters though a spirit of goodwill, compromise and understanding. You could trust his decisions and recommendations and most of all, you could depend on his support and friendship and steady mature leadership. We in the Board of Directors of our Association, will miss Ron very much but surely not forget him nor the countless contributions which he made to the N.C.N.A. I most sincerely hope, that our Association will prosper through the example of the legacy with which we are left. I am proud to say that Ron Miller was a very dear friend and colleague, and that I have been enriched by the moments we shared together.

In service of the N.C.N.A. and numismatically yours,



Fred G. van den Haak  
President

THE MINTMASTER'S QUILL: An Editor's Prerogative

My Friends,

In the nearly two months since Ron Miller's tragic murder, national publications and most every local coin club periodical within our northern California region have printed memorials and eulogies. Such remembrances, such tribute, and such sympathy and sincerity are all testimony to Ron, his character, his career, and his service over the years to our coin hobby.

These words here are only poor seconds and thirds to the numerous reflections and empathy already printed, and with so much having already been committed to print, these words are also unworthy, but as so many prior expressions, these do come from the heart.

With all the Ron was and did, leaving a rich, profound, and enduring legacy and tone for us and our hobby, the difficulty is to find some meaning out of this tragedy, if such could even be attempted, and to fathom the sorrow and sympathy so universally burdened.

When the Board of Directors of our Association met last April 19th, the topic was Ron, not so much as to what the Association should do in recognition and respect, but what Ron had done for us all. Each of us said something: expressed some long age story or talked of this or that about Ron. It was a roast of love. It was a group striving to find meaning in a cruel world. It was friends hoping, as only loving men and women can, that maybe, just maybe, Ron might walk-in ther and order as he always did his favorite steak.

Ron touched us all. Touched. Influenced. Assisted. Contributed. Participated. Donated. Attended. Spoke. Shared. Suggested. Served. Supported. Displayed. Worked, and so on. Read this short list of verbs, and you learn quickly what his character was, what man among men and women he was, and what memory sadly he is now.

Ron is gone. Memories and remembrances are not all that is our legacy; rather, for me, for some of us, and for all us in the end, there is a challenge. No one can ever replace Ron. He was unique, but we would fail ourselves and our hobby, which Ron loved so much, if we did not strive to equal his example.

Pause now. Read the verbs above. Think for a minute. The best praise, the greatest award, and most eternal honor would be for all us, not to wallow in sorrow, something Ron would hate, but to go forth living life and serving our beloved hobby as Ron did; thus, making Ron's final triumph practicing his dedication and devotion.

Numismatically Yours,

Michael S. Turrini  
Editor

GOLD MINER DIGGINGS: NCNA News and Happenings

Ronald Lee Miller

Ron Miller, 1944-1993, was murdered last March 16th in his Fremont coin shop, and his services, standing room only, was held on Saturday, March 20th. Attending representing our Association were: President Fred G. van den Haak, Past President Robert Mish, Past Officer and Booster Edward Sins, Past Officers and Workers Lillian Hooker and Constance Perham, Second Vice-President Gordon Donnell, and Treasurer and Editor Stan Turrini. (If others were present and not listed here, apology is extended).

The Board of Directors appropriated \$250.00 to the Ron Miller Memorial Fund (Old Stone Bank, 40015 Mission Blvd., Fremont, California, 94539) and endorsed the creation of the perpetual memorial, the 'Miller Award'; details and procedures yet to be decided.

NCNA Members are welcomed to correspond with or to contact any Officer as to ideas and suggestions concerning remembrances and tributes.

Those interested in learning details of this tragedy are welcomed to review past recent issues of Numismatic News, Coin World, or the next issue, soon to be mailed, Calcoin News, the California State Numismatic Association's (CSNA) quarterly periodical.

Next Board of Directors Meetings

The next three Board Meetings are as follows:

June 29, 1993, Fifth Tuesday, 6:30pm, Leaning Tower Restaurant, 713 Linden Avenue, South San Francisco,

August 30, 1993, Fifth Monday, 6:30pm, Charlie Brown's, off I-80, near Powell and West Frontage, Emeryville, and

November 29, 1993, Fifth Monday, 6:30pm, Leaning Tower Restaurant, 713 Linden Avenue, South San Francisco.

Any interested Individual Member and Club Member via each's Delegate are invited to attend. The dinner session begins at 6:30pm with the Board Meeting immediately after. If you would like to attend, and as a courtesy, please telephone in-advance Dave Lange at '415-872-0295'.

New Official Mailing Address

The Association's new mailing address (also listed on the cover of this Issue) is:

PO Box 1213  
Millbrae, California 94030

All correspondence, dues payments, and business should be mailed to

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BRANCH MINT REPORTS: Club Happenings

Have been receiving bulletins, newsletters, or news releases from these coin clubs:

San Jose Coin Club  
San Francisco Coin Club  
Fairfield Coin Club  
Greater Houston Coin Club  
Livermore Valley Coin Club  
Alameda Coin Club  
Sacramento Valley Coin Club  
Stanislaus County Coin Club  
Solano Silver Round Club  
Redwood Empire Coin Club  
Napa Valley Coin Club  
Fresno Numismatic Society  
Peninsula Coin Club  
Delta Coin Club  
Gateway Coin Club  
Fremont Coin Club  
Liberty Numismatic Society  
Cupertino Coin Club  
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society  
Diablo Numismatic Society  
Vallejo Numismatic Society

San Jose Coin Club Elected its 1993 Officers: RAY JOHNSON, President, RICH NEDVED, Vice-President, DAREN BOWLBY, Junior Vice-President, AL LO, Corresponding Secertary, E.P. WALLAKER, Treasurer, JOE JOHNSON, Historian, and EDWARD SINS, Librarian. SJCC reminds fellow coin hobbyists that it meets on the Second Wednesday of each month at the American Legion Hall, Post 318, 1504 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose with doors open at 6:30pm.

San Francisco Coin Club Recent SFCC meeting speakers have been: January 26th, HANS HANSSON, 'Paper Money', February 23rd, STAN TURRINI, '49th State', and March 23rd, GORDON DONNELL, 'Collecting Elongated Coins'. The SFCC has again joined the Alameda Coin Club (ACC) to sponsor their Annual Bay Area Coin Show this August 29, 1993 at Emeryville's Holiday Inn.

Fairfield Coin Club Reelected its 1993 Officers: STAN TURRINI, President, CRAIG BLACKWOOD, Vice-President, JAN HENKE, Secretary, and JOE BLEAU, Treasurer. The FCC held its Twentieth (20th) Anniversary Dinner last March 24th at Johnnie's in Fairfield's Winnery Square. Some twenty-two members and four guests attended, each receiving a lot in table favors and gifts. The FCC has two remaining Charter Members: STEVE CARBARNARO and ERNIE DRAKE, who is the FCC's newest Life Member. The FCC has its Fourth Annual Fairfield Coin and Collectibles Show scheduled for Sunday, September 19, 1993 in Building 1400, Student Center and Cafeteria, Solano Community College, 4000 Suisun Valley Road North, off I-80

at 680, in Cordelia, California. Two groups will meet during this Show: Solano Silver Round Club (SSRC) at 1:30pm in the Faculty Lounge and before the Northern California Wooden Money Collectors (NCWMC) at Twelve Noon in same Lounge. Two speakers have been arranged: FRANK HEANEY, 'The Rock: Alcatraz' and BOB CHANDLER, 'Wells Fargo Legends'. The Bourse Coordinator is JAN HENKE at 'PO Box 944, Fairfield, California, 94533' '707-427 0482'. Applications are now available.

Greater Houston Coin Club The GHCC exchanges newsletters and bulletins with reciprocating coin clubs across this nation, and the January 1993 Issue of its Double Shift had a short, yet informative, article of the Club's early years with all the firsts listed and denoted. This Club was founded on September 9, 1955 with ARTHUR MONTGOMERY as its First President. The Club's newsletter title, Double Shift, has an interesting background: "The first issue of the Double Shift appeared in August of 1964, and there was a guessing game with a prize for the member who could give the reason for the newsletter's name. The winner was ELENOR MARTIN, who knew that since the Club was organized in 1955 and the most numismatically connected event of that year was the 1955 double shift cent, now called the 1995 doubled die cent. The first editor of the Double Shift was CHRIS JOHNS.".

Livermore Valley Coin Club The LVCC sadly reports that its Founder, DR, HENRY 'DOC' DEVNICH passed away last December 1992 and that guest ANDREA VERDAY won the LVCC's popular slab toss at the Club's annual Christmas Party. Recent LVCC meetings speakers have been: January 19th, CHUCK WHITE, Exhibiting, February 16th, HOWARD KOSANKE, Coin Preservation, March 16th, KEN BARR, Numismatic Potpourri, and April 20th, DAVE LANGE, Buffalo Nickels.

Alameda Coin Club Elected its 1993 Officers: STEPHEN BERSCH, President, HERMAN BRAVO, Vice-President, MIKE NEICOFF, Secretary, and WILLARD SPIERSCH, Treasurer. MIKE NEICOFF has also resurrected the ACC's monthly Thick and Thin Times. The ACC heard HANS HANSSON talk on Bolivian Money at its February 9th meeting. The ACC has again joined the San Francisco Coin Club (SFCC) to hold their 1993 Bay Area Coin Show this Sunday, August 29, 1993 at the Holiday Inn in Emeryville. Show Coordinators are: Show, HANS HANSSON, Bourse, TOM KELLY, Advertising, MARK CLARK, and Finances, MIKE NEICOFF. Research as to the early history of the ACC has found these to be founding members: ROBERT STURN, JOE MICHAUD, FRED KJELLAND, BARRY BAVO, DON STAPLES, and WILL SPIERSCH.

Sacramento Valley Coin Club Elected its 1993 Officers: JEFF SHEVLIN, President, TIM LEWIS, Vice-President, BUD BRAKOWIECKI, Recording Secretary, ED HOPKINSON, Treasurer, and CECLIA SEVLIN, Corresponding Secretary. The SVCC has copied other local coin clubs and began holding at its April 28th meeting semi-annual donation auctions to generate funds for the Club. The Eleventh Annual Spring Coin Show of the SVCC will be this May 15 and 16, 1993 at La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Road, in Carmichael.

Stanislaus County Coin Club Heard at its February 24th meeting DAVE LANGE talk on Buffalo Nickels, and at its March 24th meeting, JOEL ANDERSON talked on Unusual Money.

Solano Silver Round Club Will celebrate its Tenth (10th) Anniversary this Thursday, June 3, 1993 at Pietro's #1 in Vacaville, California. Those members attending will receive a limited mintage engraved SSRC Club Medal. Former members are invited to attend; if you plan to join this celebration, telephone JAN HENKE afternoons at '707-427-0482'. The SSRC's March 11th Quarterly Drawing earned a record \$220.00 with many lucky winners. The special engraved medal prizes in this Drawing were in error: the date should have read 'March 11, 1993'. The SSRC met at the recent April 25th Vallejo Show at which American Numismatic Association (ANA) President EDWARD C. ROCETTE attended and presented the designer's medals to JAN HENKE whose entry was done for the Club's Tenth (10th) Anniversary silver round. The SSRC's Silver Notes will gladly at no charge publish and announce local coin club club medals: write to Editor JAN HENKE at 'PO Box 3518, Fairfield, California, 94533'. Include all details plus, if possible, art or print of the actual medal.

Redwood Empire Coin Club Has a new meeting location: it is Coddington Community Center, 1100B Coddington, Santa Rosa, which is two buildings left of the Post Office. Meetings remain on the Fourth Wednesday at 7:30pm. The RECC reports two of its beloved members, JOE PIA and PAT KELLY, passed away. The 1993 RECC Officers are: TIM HULDERMAN, President, DON HOLMSLEY, Vice-President, GUY SHAPPY, Secretary, and HELEN ROBERTS, Treasurer. The RECC manned an informative booth during April's National Coin Week placed in Santa Rosa's G&G Market. This booth was staffed by RECC's Junior Members. Details for the RECC's Twenty-Sixth (26th) Annual Coin-A-Rama are: Sunday, October 10, 1993, 10:00am to 5:00pm, Veterans' Memorial Building, 1361 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa, California. Free Admission.

Napa Valley Coin Club GENE FEIERSTEIN stepped down as President, Bourse Coordinator, and Publicity Coordinator, saying "enough is enough". Only twenty-two members and guests attended the NVCC's January 20th meeting, its Third Annual Half Dollar Night, which was the "lowest turnout on record".

Fresno Numismatic Society Elected its 1993 Officers: MIKE BAUSANO, President, BRIAN LENTALL, Vice-President, DAVID HARRIS, Treasurer, and RUTH PHILLIPS, Acting Secretary. The FNS's January 12th meeting heard BRIAN LENTELL on Barber Coinage, and "he followed his presentation with some piano solos featuring music that was popular in Barber's day". BILL FEBRUARY spoke at two meetings: February 9th, Silver Certificates and March 9th, Fractional Currency.

Peninsula Coin Club Reports the mintages for all its Club Medals periodically in its newsletter; these complete informative lists

are a must for Club Medal collectors; write to: "PO Box 60484, Palo Alto, California, 94306-0484". Past designers of PCC Club Medals have been: FRED G. VAN DEN HAAK, RICHARD F. DOUGLAS, AL LO, and MARK GEALY. The 1992 off-medal sets, four (4) medals total each, sold respectfully for \$70.00 and \$65.00. Recent issues of the PCC's monthly newsletter have attached nice educating short articles, particular credit is given to a short biography of Edward C. Elmore, who as the Confederacy's (CSA) only Treasurer, by BRENT H. HUGHES. Nice Reading. Informative.

Delta Coin Club Reelected its 1993 Officers: DON KENDRICK, President, KEVIN MALOY, Vice-President, EDWARD CARMAN, Recording Secretary, SYD KASS, Corresponding Secretary, LORIS ENZMINGER, Treasurer, and ELIZABETH JOHNSON, Librarian. The DCC holds an annual contest each year as to the first member to display at a meeting that year's dated coins: 1993 was MIKE RICHARDSON with 1993 Silver Eagles at the DCC's January 22nd meeting. DCC Newsletter Editor SYD KASS reported another great Annual Dinner last January 8th with \$800.00 in Drawing prizes and guests from as far as North Dakota; he asks, "Can any other Club top that?".

Gateway Coin Club Elected its 1993 Officers: MEL DIBELLA, President, JOEL ANDERSON, Vice-President, RON LUND, Treasurer, and BELINDA WILSON, Secretary. The GCC has an interesting method of promoting both itself and the hobby as quoted from its April newsletter: "Recycle Your Coin Newspapers And Magazines--Bring in your old coin newspapers and magazines (tear off the name tag). The Club will stamp them telling when and where we meet and leave them in Waiting Rooms. Hopefully someone will read it up and visit one of our meetings. You can help distribute the papers and magazines to Waiting Rooms you visit (Doctors' Offices, Barber Shops, Repair Shops, etc.)". Also from this newsletter issue: "April 1st--Give-Away Day: Due to an excess of funds in the Treasury, we will be giving \$100.00 to every member who attends. (Remember what day this is)!".

Fremont Coin Club Has installed its 1993 Officers: VINCE LACARIERE, President, IRIS ATKINSON, Vice-President, JIM BARTON, Treasurer, STEPHEN BOURG, Recording Secretary, ROGER LYLES, Corresponding Secretary, and ADRIANNA BOURG, Junior Vice-President. The Fremont Coin Club has suffered a major tragedy with the terrible murder of its Founder, primary Booster, and several times President, RON MILLER. Fremont was RON's home coin club, actually only one of many that he belong to and supported. The March 23rd meeting was dedicated as a tribute to RON, over one hundred forty people attended, including STUART MCNAUHTAN, Co-Founder of the FCC, CAL WILSON from Alabama, and many others. The \$460.00 earned in the drawing, the largest amount ever taken-in, was contributed to the Memorial Fund. The FCC also pledged \$500.00 toward the Reward Fund. RON's wife, DIANA, was also present, and as a fitting tribute, this year's FCC Club Medal will be the RON MILLER MEMORIAL MEDAL. Condolences are expressed to the FCC and its members from many others from across northern California.

Liberty Numismatic Society Has heard three speakers: JIM ROSEN, January 5th, 'Making Aluminum Impressions Of Coins', DAVID CIENIEWICZ, March 2nd, 'Ships and Boats On Coins And Medals', HERB MILES, April 6th, 'Early Coinage and Patterns of Liberia'. February 2nd was the LNS' Medals Night, and an off-medal set was presented to designer AL LO, and two off-medal sets were auctioned respectfully at \$50.00 (AL LO) and \$47.00 (MARIAN SINTON), proceeds to the Society's Treasury. LNS has a new Editor as reported: "In Case You Were Wondering--REGAN SHEA and MIKE SULAK beat out a horde of would-be newsletter editors/publishers (well, actually no one else would take the job) to take over for retiring DAVE LANGE. REGAN types and edits, while MIKE photocopies, stamps, and mails the product.". The LNS 1993 Officers are: REGAN SHEA, President, MIKE SULAK, Vice-President, DAVE LANGE, Secretary, and NEVIO ANDREATTA, Treasurer.

Cupertino Coin Club CCC's 1993 Officers are: PHIL SOLOMON, President, NATHAN MILLER, Youth Vice-President, JEAN PRITCHETT, Secretary, and RON ISHIZAKE, Treasurer. Exhibits winners at the past February 27 and 28, 1993 Show were: Best-of-Show, Ray Erkson Award, AL LO, 'The 1973 Club Medal', First Places, GARY ACQUISTAPACE, 'Nevada Gaming Tokens' and KEVIN MALODY, 'United States Military Payent Certificates', and Second Places, JEFF SHEVLIN, 'Morgan Dollar Reverses' and CHUCK WHITE, 'A Bit of Roman History'.

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society Elected its 1993 Officers: PAUL HOLTZMAN, President, STEPHEN HUSTON, Vice-President, FRANK STRAZZARINO, Secretary, and RICK WEBSTER, Treasurer. Recent PCNS meeting speakers have been: January 27th, DAVID CIENIEIWCZ, 'Boats and Ships On Coins', February 27th, HERB MILES, 'Pattern Coins Of Liberia' and March 24th, RICK WEBSTER, 'Hawaiiana'.

Diablo Numismatic Society Installed its 1993 Officers: STAN TURRINI, President, KARL MANTHEI, Vice-President, STEWART HUCKABY, Secretary, and BILL HEWITT, Treasurer. JAN HENKE has been appointed Curator, and GORDON DONNELL volunteered to be the DNS' Historian. HANS HANSSON spoke on 'Paper Money' at the DNS's February 18th meeting, and the Donation Drawing postponed to the April 16th meeting earned \$190.00 for the Society. Donors were: JAN HENKE, STAN TURRINI, STEWART HUCKABY, SUE MANTHEI, KARL MANTHEI, DALE TOMS, GORDON DONNELL, ROBERT BABB, JOHN RUSSELL, BILL HEWITT, BILL OLIVER, and DALE BRYANT. The DNS lost its meeting location of the past few years, but a temporary new site was quickly found, about twenty feet away, across the breezeway: at the Civic Bank of Commerce, 1940 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek, California: "Last month's [March] meeting was held in the corridor outside of the old meeting place at HomeFed Bank due to the fact that our meeting room--and the bank branch--has been closed. Due to the unexpectedly informal nature of our surroundings, we limited our meeting to talk, Show 'n Tell, and discussion of our meeting location, or lack thereof.". The DNS has acted not to sponsor at coin show this year. Publicity of last year's Show did not originate from the DNS.

Vallejo Numismatic Society Recent meeting activities have been: January 6th, Franklin Half Dollar Night and Installation, February 3rd, HANS HANSSON, 'Cents', March 3rd, DAVID W. LANGE, 'Buffalo Nickels', and April 7th, Annual Al Renn Memorial Auction which earned a record \$202.50! The final confirmed mintages for the 1993 Club Medals are: 77 antique bronze and 64 bright proof silver. The Society's highest and most esteemed honor, its Service Award, was presented by American Numismatic Association (ANA) President EDWARD C. ROCHEDE at the recent April 25th Vallejo Show to JAN D. HENKE, Service Award #7. Prior recipients have been: STAN TURRINI, MAXINE HOPPERSTAD, AL RENN, LUCKY WILLIAMS, OZZIE STOUT, and MIKE STANLEY. Both ANA President ROCHEDE and California State Numismatic Association (CSNA) President DAVID W. LANGE attended this year's Vallejo Show. The VNS has scheduled its Twenty-Second (22nd) Annual Vallejo Coin and Collectibles Show next May 1, 1994, first Sunday, at its long-time site, Dan Foley Cultural Center, Tuolumne Street at End North Camino Alto, in Vallejo, California. For information, write to: "PO Box 4281, Vallejo, California, 94590".

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this post office box. Matters concerning NCNA HEADS and Tales direct to the its Vallejo post office box address. All use of the post office box in San Jose has been terminated.

#### NCNA Property

The Board of Directors has begun a massive, long-over due, and extended project to locate, to catalog, to rearrange and reorganize, as well as to secure the Association's properties and holdings. Most all Past Officers have been contacted, and much has been reclaimed and relocated.

Anyone having anything belonging to NCNA is requested to contact any Officer. Your cooperation would be appreciated.